

AN IMPORTANT WEEK

Bills Which Will Engage the Attention of the Nation.

DISCUSSION WILL BEGIN TODAY

The Reorganization of the Army Bill Will Come Up, and in the Senate Senator Hoar Will Talk Anti-Expansion. Other Bills.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The time of the house will be fully occupied from this time forward until the conclusion of the session. The appropriation bills, which are already in an unusually advanced stage, are to be kept to the fore, but there is a great deal of other important legislation which will press for consideration at every opportunity. Perhaps the most important single measure is the bill for the reorganization of the army. It was the general understanding before the recess that this bill would be given consideration immediately after the holidays, but the illness of Chairman Hull of the military affairs committee will delay this measure until he is sufficiently recovered to attend the session of the house. His illness will also delay the military academy and army appropriation bills. Meantime the friends of the navy personnel bill are pushing for its consideration, and the rules committee may give a day to it during the present week.

The bill represents the complete agreement between the line and staff. These two branches of the service have been at war for many years, but now they have at last got together and agreed upon a measure. Its passage, once it gets to a vote, is assured. The only opposition to it is likely to arise from the fact that the organization it contemplates involves an additional charge on the treasury of several hundred thousand dollars. The final vote on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill will take place tomorrow. The opponents of the civil service law succeeded in striking from the bill, while the house was in the committee of the whole, the appropriation for the maintenance of the commission. But tomorrow when the vote is taken in the house where the members are obliged to go on record there is little doubt but that the appropriation will be restored.

The diplomatic and consular and naval appropriation bills are the next budget to be taken up, and either or both may be considered this week. Such time as intervenes will be consumed in the consideration of the bill for the codification of the laws of Alaska. This bill has been made the continuing order. Portions of two days have already been consumed by it, and less than seventy of 232 pages of the bill have been disposed of. The lawyers of the house show an inclination to go over it critically, section by section, and it may be before the house for an indefinite period.

THE WEEK IN THE SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The week promises to be a busy one in the senate. It will begin with an elaborate and carefully prepared speech by Senator Hoar to be delivered immediately after the transaction of the routine business tomorrow in opposition to the expansion of American territory. This speech is of considerable length and with the interruptions that are liable to occur it will probably consume the greater portion of the day. Tuesday Senator Morgan will discuss briefly his resolution in opposition to this country's asserting sovereignty over Cuba and the Philippines, taking strong grounds for the independence of the people of those islands. Senator Morgan will make an effort early in the week to get the senate to name the date for taking the vote upon his bill for the construction of the Nicaragua canal and whether he succeeds or not, will press the bill continuously upon the attention of the senate as circumstances permit. Unanimous consent is necessary to the fixing of the time for a vote, and it is not probable that this will be secured for some time to come.

It is the expectation that the peace treaty will be reported on Wednesday and also that some of the appropriation bills now in the hands of the committee on appropriations will be brought in towards the close of the week. Immediate consideration will be asked for the appropriation bills, but it is possible that the beginning of the debate upon the treaty may be postponed until next week.

There is an effort on foot among the opponents of the treaty to have it discussed in open session, but the indications are against such a course.

GERMANY'S NEW STEAMSHIPS.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Great interest in Asiatic commerce which other nations, as well as the United States are now feeling, is illustrated in the recent subsidy agreement made by the German government with the Lloyd Steamship company by which it proposes to pay more than a million dollars a year for a fifteen-year term for the establishment of steamship lines to ply between its ports and those of Japan, China and Australia and certain points of Oceania. Four steamers are under this contract to be built for the Chinese and Japanese service to be of not less than 6,000 tons, and those for the Australian line are to be not less than 5,300 tons. All ships are to be built in the German yards, and German material is to be used as far as possible. All admiralty requirements are to be carried out in them, putting them into a condition in which they can readily be utilized for war purposes when necessary.

It is also announced that the Bremen firm intends to establish with the steamers now being built for that purpose, a steamship line on the Yang Tse kang in China, to ply between Shanghai and Hankow. By the aid of the line, which will connect with the subsidized lines running from Hamburg to Shanghai, the German dealers and the German interests will be in direct communication, not only with Shanghai, which has two-thirds of the import trade of China, but also with Hankow, one of the most important commercial cities of China, and having a population of about one million. It is now being connected with Peking by railroad.

A NEW SENATOR TO BE SELECTED

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 8.—The legislature assembles next Wednesday and the party leaders are already here for the preliminary work in the organization of that body. Although balloting for the successor to Senator Faulkner does not begin until Monday, Jan. 23, two weeks hence, the most important action affecting the senatorship, as well as both parties in the state will be taken within the next three days. The legislature is so close politically that its control will depend on its organization, as that will carry with it the probable settlement of the contested seats. Among the contests are two for the seats of republican members who served in the army during the Spanish war. Although they did not resign the democrats elected members in their places and offered the proceedings in the courts to secure the seats. There are many candidates for senator, but the contest this week is first and solely on the issue of the organization to determine which party will have the senatorship.

POISON IN THE TERRAPIN.

Colonel Alexander P. Ketchum Made Seriously Ill In New York City.

New York, Jan. 8.—Colonel Alexander P. Ketchum, a lawyer and retired United States army officer, is recovering at his home, 32 Mount Morris Park West, from the effects of poison supposed to have been contained in a jar of pickled terrapin sent him by a friend. On Thursday evening his daughter gave a reception. The colonel was unable to attend the festivities and remained in his library all the evening.

About 11 o'clock his daughter carried to him a dish of the pickled terrapin, of which he is very fond, and he partook of it heartily. Almost immediately after eating of it he was taken sick and Dr. A. G. Spalding was summoned. The patient showed every symptom of poisoning and since that time has been under the doctor's care.

Miss Ketchum when seen this evening said that her father had almost entirely recovered. She refused to disclose the name of the person who had sent the terrapin to her father. Dr. Spalding refused to discuss the matter. Colonel Ketchum was on General Howard's staff during the war of the rebellion.

MORE FOOD SUPPLIES SENT TO CUBANS

Washington, Jan. 8.—The secretary of war has furnished the Cuban industrial relief fund of New York with credentials to General Brooke, military governor of Cuba, commending the relief association to him as a distributing agent of the food supplies sent and to be sent by the government to the suffering Cubans. The second ship load of these supplies, now preparing, will include many foods especially adapted to the needs of the women and children as well as the Cuban soldiers and laborers. It is believed by discerningly using this food in connection with the industrial features of the relief fund will result in the gradual transfer of many from the charitably aided class to the self-sustaining class.

DINGLEY'S CONDITION UNCHANGED.

Washington, Jan. 8.—There has been no material change in the condition of Representative Dingley and tonight it is said he is resting comfortably.

IT IS ALREADY ORGANIZED.

Salem, Ore., Jan. 8.—The Oregon legislature will convene at noon tomorrow. Both houses were organized at the special session in October last and it is probable that that organization will be continued.

DEATH OF A PRINCESS.

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—The French mail boat Tropic Bird brings the news from Tahiti of the death at Hapeete of Princess Tetua Maraima, hereditary princess of the islands.

SPREAD OF SICKNESS.

A Considerable Percentage of the Citizens of Washington Suffering From Colds and Grip.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The grip and the ailments attendant upon it that are now included in its train of ills has prostrated an unusual number of residents of Washington. At all the drug stores, which are the real barometers of the state of public health, the reports are the same, that there was never so many prescriptions or so many calls for the remedies which are supposed to be specific for diseases of the mucous system. The prevailing sickness does not make any exceptions in selecting its victims. Those surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences of modern luxury seem to be as prone to its assaults as the less fortunate. It was estimated by an observant pharmacist yesterday that 10 per cent of the District population was suffering from the now generic grip.

"A man can have a bad cold that affects his entire system," he remarked, "but the grip almost invariably affects the nervous system as well, and leads to depression to an intense degree. I never knew these symptoms as prevalent as they are at present."

The average estimate does not seem to be exaggerated when special instances are cited. Of the justices of the supreme court one, Justice Gray, is sick with grip; of the United States court of claims Justice Weldon is ailing, of the district court of appeals Chief Justice Alvey and Justice Morris are both afflicted, and of the justices of the district supreme court Chief Justice Bingham and Justice Cox are victims of illness. Over fifty of the 500 District policemen are on the sick list, and so the list might be lengthened in every direction. The present freezing weather is believed to be equal to killing the germs, as it is almost admitted now that the grip is more or less epidemic.

WERE NOT INTERRUPTED.

Madrid, Jan. 8.—Advices were received here today from the leading merchants at Iloilo to the effect that the agricultural operations in the vicinity of Iloilo have not been interrupted and that all the insurgents respect the Europeans both at Iloilo and on the island of Negros.

STATESMEN WHO ARE ILL.

Three Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee Are Sick.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Three members of the senate committee on appropriations are so ill that they will not be able to be away from their homes.

Senator Allison is the third. He has been confined to his bed on Friday, but yesterday he was up, and this morning he had still further improved. His physicians think it best that he should remain at his home until all danger of a relapse has passed. He remained in his room this morning, though he is not confined to his bed.

Senator Sewell has been ill for a couple of weeks, but is improving.

Senator Cockrell has been confined to his house for over two weeks. He has suffered quite a severe attack of the grip, and today was still in bed, and his physicians have advised that he remain at home for some time.

Senator Turpie is recovering from an attack of pneumonia, but for several days has been able to sit up several hours daily. It is not at all likely that he will go to the capitol for at least a week, as his severe illness has weakened him to such an extent that he will be in danger of a relapse unless he receives the very best care. The absence of Senator Turpie from the senate during the coming week will be especially important for the reason that during that time great progress will probably be made on the Nicaragua canal bill, which has long been antagonized by the Indiana senator.

LEFT TAMPA FOR WASHINGTON.

Tampa, Fla., Jan. 8.—The members of the Cuban evacuation commission who left Havana yesterday evening on the Mascotte arrived at Port Tampa today. The party left this evening for Washington in a special Pullman car attached to the Florida and East Indian Limited via the Plant system. The commissioners will arrive in Washington early Tuesday.

LOCKED UP IN THE TOMBS.

David Rothschild Surrendered by His Bondsman—Sums Secured From Banks By His Methods \$500,000.

New York, Jan. 8.—David Rothschild, the alleged bank swindler, surrendered by his bondsman, Charles I. Freedman, was again arraigned yesterday in the center street police court and remanded to the Tombs in default of \$2,000 bail. The prisoner declined to comment upon the action of the bondsman in surrendering him to the authorities.

It is said that Rothschild boasted after the assignment of his firm that he had had the advice of one of the best criminal lawyers in this city to the effect that there could be nothing more brought against him for the hypothecation of the alleged customers' notes as collateral for his firm notes, which the banks discounted, than a mere civil action to recover. This morning it was stated by an attaché of the district attorney's office that if it was found that Rothschild in making his representations to the banks had been careful enough to keep inside the legal line, he would be held on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the financial institutions, and that charge could be easily proved.

In addition to the New York banks, other than the Central National, which advanced money to Rothschild, and which decline for the present to make public their names, it is understood that a number of banking houses in Chicago, Washington, Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were also the holders of a large number of "customers' notes" discounted for the benefit of the Rothschild firm. It is now said that the amount secured by Rothschild will reach nearly \$500,000.

THE MYSTERY OF A BOTTLE OF POISON

New York, Jan. 8.—The police department of this city, to all outward appearances, has made no material progress in the discovery of the person who sent the bottle of poison to Harry Cornish, physical director of the Knickerbocker Athletic club, which caused the death of Mrs. Kate J. Adams in her flat on West Eighty-sixth street. Up to the present time Captain McClusky practically admits that he and his men are baffled. Theories without number have been evolved, worked to their natural end, and have been dropped only to give place to new suppositions equally untenable. Clues have been developed, some of them promising, but only to be cast aside as the investigator pursued them to the point where they evaporated into nothingness. For a time the discovery of the starting point of the silver match holder promised a greater possibility than anything that had yet come up, the more so as there were but thirty holders made, and trading them to their purchasers seemed easy. But here again, so it appears, the police have accomplished nothing. The majority of the holders have been traced to their owners, and of the few remaining unaccounted for some few of the possessors are lost to view.

Some mild excitement was caused in the upper end of Mulberry street by a tale that Mrs. Fred G. Hovey, the bosom friend of Mrs. Rogers, had a match holder similar to that received by Cornish, but the report vanished into thin air, as the tale was pursued into the home of the Hoveys at Hartford and was found to have no foundation. It brought the investigation home to roost once more into the secret precinct of Captain McClusky's private office to be laid on the shelf of decretum and worn out clues, theories, motives and the like, waiting to be mended and renewed and brought out again when all other things fail.

The Adams murder is young yet. It has much time for development and still time for the apprehension of the guilty person or persons—a woman perhaps, according to the reflections of District Attorney Gardner. With all this, however, if Captain McClusky has a real clue or if he has a genuinely "suspected" person in sight and under surveillance, he is, like a good policeman, keeping it strictly to himself until the time to speak arrives.

More of a mystery than the Fleming case and outwardly and equal in mystification, or even greater than the murder of the old miser Henry in Brooklyn, the Adams case has on its face more than a fair promise of remaining where it is, and finally dropping out of sight as one of New York's unsolved murder mysteries. And there, unless the scalpel of some keen analyst as yet unknown, of the same trend of mind that solved the murder mysteries of the Rue Morgue and the famous Lawton tragedy, is brought into play, it will likely stay. Captain McClusky is looking for this same sort of a keen analyst of criminal motives.

COUNTRY WANTS REST

Republican Leaders Endorse President McKinley's Views.

Situation Summed Up by E. V. Smalley of the Sound Money League in Regard to Financial Legislation.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Quite a number of earnest sound money leaders have personally canvassed the senate and house lately regarding the probability of getting satisfactory results out of an extra session of congress, and the conclusion reached in nearly every instance is that it would be best to wait until the good times of 1899, following those of 1898, have reconciled the antagonisms and prejudices now existing and brought the full force of the republican majority behind whatever legislation may be decided upon. This could not be done at the stroke of 12 o'clock on March 4, when the senate becomes a republican body, nor is it at all likely that it could be done during an extra session.

The sound money men who have looked carefully into the situation here, and who have also considered the difficulty of solidifying their own forces, agree substantially with the views expressed in these dispatches last Saturday, and endorse the attitude of President McKinley as therein outlined.

The president believes that what the country wants now more than anything else is a rest from agitation.

If the debates in congress and through the newspapers could be limited to the expression of sound money views, no harm could come from the exploitation of the subject, but the other side must have an equal opportunity to air their opinions and can be depended upon to do more of it than would their opponents. Their stock in trade is talk. Deprive them of that and their cause is lost. The policy of the administration, therefore, is to let prosperity show the people what laws will do for them, and against such a demonstration even a populist could not talk.

Mr. E. V. Smalley, secretary of the National Sound Money league, is among those friends of the cause who have been making careful investigation here of the situation, and in a circular letter to the members of the league he writes as follows:

"A careful observation of the situation at Washington in relation to the possibility of legislation for the reform of the currency system leads me to conclude that further agitation to bring about an extra session of congress for the special purpose of considering such legislation will be of no avail. A good deal of pressure has been brought to bear upon the president and upon republican leaders in congress in favor of an agreement among republican members of the new congress upon any particular measure of currency legislation; and, second, the almost universal opinion is that from the standpoint of party politics it would be a bad move for the republicans to open the whole field of discussion on questions connected with money, in face of the probability that they would be able to accomplish nothing in the way of positive general legislation for the improvement of the currency.

"That the second reason is sound was conclusively indicated by the recent vote in the house on the bill to charter an international bank. It is feared, whether with good grounds or not, that such a discussion would develop new cheap-money fallacies and also enable the old free silver advocates to excite the public mind anew by a vehement repetition of their old false theories, which are now happily fast fading out of notice.

"It is a sorry fact that the disagreements in congress on the currency question appear to be as radical as ever. The main contention is over the provision in the bill for the gradual retirement of government paper money and the substitution for it of bank notes, which was considered by the monetary commission to be an essential feature of any reform bill. There is also a disagreement as to the permission proposed to be given to the banks to issue circulation based on their general assets instead of on deposits of government bonds in the treasury, as now required. Furthermore, there is opposition to the establishment of branch banks. This appears to come from the small country bankers, who fear that their business will be taken away from them by branches of powerful city banks, which may be established in their respective localities.

"In the chaotic condition of opinion which prevails in congress, as explained above, it would appear useless for sound money men to make further efforts to secure the passage of a single complete currency measure covering the whole field of banking privilege, the gold basis of the currency, the retirement of government notes and the disposition of the silver certificates and of the vast quantity of silver now lying useless in the treasury. It would seem to be wiser for them to concentrate their influence to secure what appears now to be alone attainable, namely, the adoption of a few simple provisions of law that will serve to strengthen the gold standard and insure better banking facilities. The first of these measures should be the one recommended by President McKinley in his two annual messages, providing that when greenbacks are redeemed in gold they shall only be reissued against corresponding deposits of gold. This would break the 'endless chain' and prevent any future depletion of the treasury gold reserve in times of panic.

"The second measure, which the administration also favors, should be one to permit the banks to issue currency up to the face value of their bonds on deposit in the treasury. This would increase the present bank circulation to a moderate extent, and would tend to prevent a further clamor for additional issues of government paper money.

"A third measure should be the one recommended by Secretary Gage to establish a separate bureau of issue and redemption in the treasury department, in order to keep the business of issuing and redeeming paper currency by itself so that the gold reserve shall not be paid out for general expenses in a time when revenue may be deficient to meet the current needs of the government."